

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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PRESIDENT IN PARIS

HELSINKI MEDIA GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO POMPIDOU FUNERAL AND NIXON ATTENDANCE. LAST NIGHT FINNISH TV SHOWED PRESIDENT ENTERING NORTE DAME--ONLY VIP SO SHOWN.

MAIN DAILY HELSINGIN SANOMAT CARRIES DISPATCH FROM PARIS CORRESPONDENT TODAY. EXCERPTS: "NIXON IS ARRANGING A SUMMIT MEETING IN PARIS. POMPIDOU'S FUNERAL GIVES HIM AN EARLY CHANCE TO MAKE A COME BACK TO THE WORLD SCENE AND TO START NEW MOVES IN ORDER TO BRING BACK THE EUROPEAN ALLIES TO THE ATLANTIC ORDER.

"NIXON'S CONTACTS SEEM TO HAVE CONVINCED HIM HE CAN ORGANIZE THE BIG EUROPEAN SUMMIT HE HAD HOPED FOR UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP BEFORE HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW IN JUNE. BY ARRIVING IN PARIS HE HAS IN FACT TRANSFERRED TO PARIS THE MEETINGS THAT WOULD HAVE OCCURRED IN BRUSSELS DURING NATO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY, IF HE HAD GONE THERE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

"THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF POMPIDOU FROM THE WORLD SCENE HAS GIVEN NIXON
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A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER HIS OWN PLANS. IT IS OBVIOUS

WASHINGTON REGARDS THE TWO GAULLISTS CHABAN-DELMAS AND EDGAR FAURE AS ATLANTIC CANDIDATES. AND FAURE SEEMS ALSO TO THE USSR FAVORITE".

OTHER PAPERS CARRY ROUTINE REUTERS AND AP STORIES ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS SATURDAY WITH THE FIVE NATO CHIEFS AND REPORT HE WILL MEET TODAY WITH PODGORNYY AND TANAKA. THE SUBSTANCE IS GENERALLY THE SAME IN ALL. END
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